

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: ONO, et al

Serial No.: Rule 1.53(b) continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/646,012, filed January 11, 2001

Filed: Herewith

For: SAMPLE SURFACE PROCESSING METHOD

Group of parent: 1765

Examiner of parent: Powell

**CLAIM FOR PRIORITY**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

September 29, 2003

Sir:

Pursuant to the requirements of 35 USC §119 and 37 CFR §1.55, Applicants hereby claim the right of priority based on Japanese Patent Application No.10-060809, filed in Japan on March 12, 1998; Japanese Patent Application No.10-256926, filed in Japan on September 10, 1998 and Japanese Patent Application No.10-290293, filed in Japan on October 13, 1998.

A certified copies the above-identified Japanese patent applications were submitted on March 12, 1999, in PCT Application No. PCT/JP99/01215, with an International filing date of March 12, 1999.

Respectfully submitted,

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